

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/012512

## Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-9 as originally filed/furnished
- pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.\* 1-11 received by this Authority on 25.06.2005 with telefax
- nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/2, 2/2 as originally filed/furnished
- sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	4, 5	YES
	Claims	1-3, 6-11	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-11	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
<p>1. This report makes reference to the following documents:</p> <p>D1: US-A-4 853 012</p> <p>D2: US-A-4498 911</p> <p>D3: US-A-5 853 680</p>			
<p>2. The subject matter of claims 1, 2 and 5 to 10 is not novel within the meaning of PCT Article 33(2).</p> <p>D1 (see the relevant passages cited in the search report) discloses a method of removing hydrogen sulphides <b>and/or</b> carbon dioxide, sulphur components from raw gases using absorption agents, regenerating this absorption agent in the presence of heat exchangers and obtaining an acid gas stream. The molar percentage of H<sub>2</sub>S must therefore be 0 to 100 mol%. The pressure of the acid gas stream must be between 1 and <b>5</b> bar (column 3, lines 53-56). The absorption agent consists of aqueous solutions which contain alkanolamines. The disclosure of D1 is therefore prejudicial to the novelty of the subject matter of claims 1 to 3 and</p>			

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
	<p>6 to 11 of the present application.</p> <p>The combination of features in dependent claims 4 and 5 is not known from the available prior art because D1 does not disclose the solvent according to claim 4 and the aqueous solution.</p> <p>3. The subject matter of claims 4 and 5 does not involve an inventive step within the meaning of PCT Article 33(2).</p> <p>The subject matter of claims 3 and 4 differs from the method disclosed in D1 by the absorption agent. However, a person skilled in the art is familiar with the absorption agent defined in claims 3 and 4 from D2 and D3. The alternatives in claims 3 and 4 are merely obvious possibilities from which a person skilled in the art would select according to the circumstances, without thereby being inventive. For these reasons, the subject matter of claims 3 and 4 cannot be regarded as inventive (PCT Article 33(3)).</p>

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Box No. VI

Certain documents cited

## 1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

Application No. Patent No.	Publication date (day/month/year)	Filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date (valid claim) (day/month/year)
<b>WO 2004/085036 A</b>	07.10.2004	24.03.2004	26.03.2003
<b>WO 03/092862 A</b>	13.11.2003	<b>02.04.2003</b>	<b>03.05.2003</b>
<b>WO 2004/071624 A</b>	<b>26.08.2004</b>	<b>24.01.2004</b>	<b>14.02.2003</b>
<b>WO 2004/082809 A</b>	<b>30.09.2004</b>	<b>27.02.2004</b>	<b>27.03.2003</b>

## 2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

Kind of non-written disclosure	Date of non-written disclosure (day/month/year)	Date of written disclosure referring to non-written disclosure (day/month/year)
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**Box No. VII**      **Certain defects in the international application**

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

Contrary to PCT Rule 5.1(a)(ii), the description  
does not cite D1 to D3 or indicate the relevant  
prior art disclosed therein.

## Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of: I

**Basis of the report**

1. The claims 1 to 11 submitted with the fax of 25 June 2005 meet the requirements of PCT Article 34(2)(b):  
Claim 1 corresponds to the originally submitted claim 1. The new claim 2 is supported by the description, page 6, lines 38-39. Claims 3 to 11 correspond to the originally submitted claims 2 to 10.